needs have been conveyed to the French Government. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

India's Relations with Asean & APEC countries

3577. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, during his recent visit to Singapore, had observed that India would like to be the dialogue partner, of ASEAN and to improve relations further with ASEAN, APEC and China;

(b) if so, whether the Singapore Prime Minister, in response, observed that Singapore would be made gateway of India to ASEAN;

(c) in what precise context these observations were made, at what level India's relations with ASEAN, APEC, and China presently stand and how far they improved as a result of the recent visits; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Singapore in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The Prime Minister during his visit to Singapore in September, 1994 had observed that India was a Sectoral Dialogue partner of the ASEAN and that India would want to come closer.

(b) The Singapore Prime Minister was positive regarding India's interest in expanded relations with the ASEAN and offered to promote India's desired involvement in regional developments.

(c) The above observations were made in the context of India's interest in closer interaction with ASEAN.

At present, India is a sectoral dialogue partner with ASEAN. India has conveyed her, interest in participating in APEC, India-China relations are improving steadily and have acquired meaningful political and economic content in recent years

Recent visits have contributed to better understanding and approciation of each other's perceptions and have accelerated the pace of cooperation.

(d) As mentioned above, Singapore has been supporting India's desire for greater involvement with ASEAN.

Minister's Statement on Indo-US relations

3578. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister of State for External Affairs during his visit to New York, in December, 1994, observed that "Cold War residue was still affecting Indo-US ties";

(b) if so, in what precise context he made these observations: and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken to obviate and resolve these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Following his keynote address at the Symposium on "South Asia and the United States after the Cold War" at Asia Society, New York, on 29th September, 1994, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed, responding to questions observed "It is important that relations between South Asia and the US which were earlier mired in cold war paradigms, and which can still be affected adversely by the remant ice floes and icebergs of the cold war glacier, are steered carefully into the future. One needs to carefully reconstruct the relationship between US and South Asia, including the relationship between the US and India.